



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLN. OF: OKADA et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/913,625

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TC 170C

**SUPPLEMENTAL PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Patent Office additional prior art. Attached is U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including a copy of the prior art reference listed therein, and a copy of the abstract. This reference is discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over this reference.

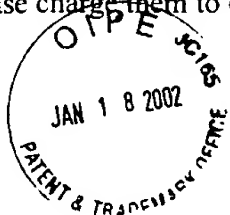
This Supplemental Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

The enclosed Supplemental Prior Art Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to receipt of the first Office Action. Therefore, we believe there are no fees involved with this

HAYES, SOLOWAY,  
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN  
& HAGE, P.C.  
P.O. BOX 3042  
130 W. CUSHING ST  
TUCSON, AZ 85702-3042

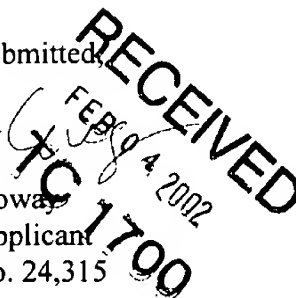
TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643

Supplemental Prior Art Disclosure Statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.



Respectfully submitted,

Norman P. Soloway  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 24,315



**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 20, 2001 at Tucson, Arizona.

By: Kim Hood

HAYES, SOLOWAY,  
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN  
& HAGE, P.C.  
P.O. BOX 3042  
130 W. CUSHING ST  
TUCSON, AZ 85702-3042

TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643